

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, and 17-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 12, and 14 have been amended, and new claim 23 has been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiners are thanked for the many courtesies extended to Applicants' attorney in the course of a personal interview conducted March 15, 2004. The substance of the interview is included herein per MPEP §713.04.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 12-15, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,054,992 to Gibson in view of U.S. Patent 6,512,516 to Schill. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As conceded in the Office Action, Gibson and Schill, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose teach or suggest, "wherein after the event has occurred, ... the state change propagation means determines at random whether a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object, which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object and belongs to the same aggregate object as the elemental object, has changed," as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 14.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 14 are distinguishable over the applied art. The remainder of the claims that depend from independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 14 are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 11, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gibson in view of Schill and further in view of Mazarak et al., "Animating Exploding Objects" ("Mazarak"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gibson, Schill, and Mazarak, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest, "wherein after the event has occurred, the state change propagation means determines at random whether a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object, which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object and belongs to the same aggregate object as the elemental object, has changed," as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 14.

As agreed upon during the March 15, 2004 personal interview, even if page 4, column 1, paragraph 2 of Mazarak is combined with col. 3, lines 29-40 of Schill, this combination of publications does not disclose, teach or suggest "wherein after the event has occurred, the state change propagation means determines at random whether a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object, ..., has changed." Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gibson in view of Schill and further in view U.S. Patent No. 5,261,041 to Susman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

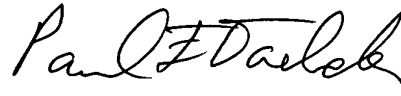
Gibson, Schill, and Susman taken separately or in combination, do not disclose teach or suggest, "wherein after the event has occurred, the state change propagation means determines at random whether a state of an elemental object is changed when a state of another elemental object, which has a predetermined relationship with the elemental object and belongs to the same aggregate object as the elemental object, has changed," as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 12, and 14. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 20, which depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-15, and 17-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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